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Youth Services Minutes 10/26/2005

TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF YOUTH SERVICES

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Mary Deyst, Chair
 Jeannette Mills, Vice Chair
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MINUTES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Present: Mary Deyst, Chairman; Jack Bowler; Carlene Newell; Donna Dolan; Dorothy Williams; Cindy Sheridan; Elizabeth Oppedisano, ex officio; Patsy Kraemer, ex officio; Dave McKenna, ex officio.

Absent: Larry Greco, Jeannette Mills, Gene Lucarelli, Elaine Shea, Joan Robbio.

Guests: Nate Levenson, superintendent of schools, BJ Cataldo, Director of Special Education, Cindy Bouvier, Director of Health Education

- 1) **Welcome/Introductions** – Introductions of everyone began the meeting. Patsy gave a brief overview of the Board of Youth Services and its purpose.
- 2) **Discussion with Nate Levenson and BJ Cataldo** – Patsy introduced both Nate and BJ to the Board and gave a brief summary of the new initiative that AYCC and the schools have launched together. Nate discussed his philosophy about the importance of school and community agencies working together to support kids and families. He feels its important to introduce counseling services to children during the school day. Patsy and her staff concur totally with this philosophy and have implemented counseling programs during the school day in past years. Nate and BJ are very eager to expand this initiative between the school and AYCC to the extent possible. It is a very cost-effective way to deliver services to kids in the schools.
- 3) **Discussion with Cindy Bouvier** – Cindy passed out a summary evaluation of the Youth Risk Behavior survey from AHS, 2004-2005. She stated that overall they were pleased with the results of the survey, with many areas showing some improvement in kids behavior and attitudes, vis a vis risky behavior. A couple of areas of continued concern are a high number of kids meeting people from internet connections and the high number of kids who experience harassment at school.
- 4) **Minutes of the 9/28/2005 meeting** were approved with one correction – moved by Jack Bowler and seconded by Donna Dolan.
- 5) **Emergency Assistance Task Force** – the Board officially established an Emergency Assistance Task Force. The Task Force is charged with mounting a community campaign to raise more dollars for the existing Assistance Fund. There is concern about the impending crisis of fuel costs for low-income families in Arlington. Jack Bowler will serve as chair of this Task Force. Other members who expressed interest in helping with the task force include Gene Lucarelli, Donna Dolan, Mary Deyst, Carlene Newell, and Patsy Kraemer
- 6) **Reports** –
 - CAPP – Carlene reported that the first presentation of the CAPP program was given to the Peirce School. Everything went well with one concern about a young girl.
 - First Step – Mary reported that the group is moving along nicely.
 - Alcohol Awareness Program – Elizabeth reported that the SADD program has many members and is doing well.
 - AYCC – Patsy reiterated that the initiative between the schools and AYCC is going well and is a very exciting effort for the agency.
- 7) **Next meeting** – Wednesday, November 9, 2005, 6:30 pm. The Town Manager will be the invited guest.
- 8) **Meeting adjourned** at 8:30 pm.